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CALIFORNIA'S

BACK COUNTRY

MOUNTAINS AND TRAILS
OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

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by Dick Smith and Frank Van Soldt

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by Dick Smith and Frank Van Schaick

McNally and Loftin, Publishers
Santa Barbara

JK

AUTHOR'S NOTE

While Southern California's urban areas are constantly changing, the mountains and their network of trails retain their familiar features year after year.

There has been one significant change in Santa Barbara's beautiful back country since this book was first published six years ago: the classification of "wilderness" that has been placed on 143,000 acres of the San Rafael range and the adjoining slopes of the Sierra Madre mountains.

Several years of struggle by the U.S. Forest Service and local and national conservationists helped bring this bit of land under the protection of the 1964 Wilderness Act. A special bill was passed in Congress and was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968.

Most of the land comprising this new Wilderness Area is shown as a primitive area on the maps in this book.

Dick Smith

September, 1968

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Printed in the United States of America

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CREDITS

All photographs, maps, art, and
text in this book are by Dick
Smith and Frank Van Schaick.



Santa Barbara County's major forest recreation areas are within the boundaries of the Santa Barbara District of the Los Padres National Forest. A network of trails, and numerous camps put this mountainous region within easy reach of county residents.

A major portion of Santa Barbara County is uninhabited. Thousands of acres of its mountain lands are national reserves under the control of the Forest Service. Here will be found scenery as varied as any in the nation.

Automobile travel through these lands is restricted to a small number of public roads; the central mountain wilderness north of the city of Santa Barbara can be reached only on foot or on horseback.

Viewed from the air, or from an overlook on one of the peaks immediately behind the city of Santa Barbara, this back country appears as a wilderness of peaks and ridges, deep gorges, narrow, winding canyons and broad valleys. To some, it has a forbidding aspect; others see a challenge in its raw majesty.

It is the purpose of this book to acquaint you with the mountain ranges, rivers, streams and beautiful valleys of this Santa Barbara back country. Together, we will walk the wilderness trails and unlock a world of unsullied grandeur — a world that is still, in the 1960's, almost as God made it.



Primitive Beauty Behind the Coast

Beginning with first rains at summer's end there comes each year a renewed interest in Santa Barbara's lovely, mysterious back country. To those who have once looked beyond the coastal mountain wall, there is an impatience to get into the forest again. Others, viewing the county's wild areas for the first time, feel the lure of the unknown and begin to plan trips that will take them into the mountains.

Santa Barbara's back country is as generous a chunk of wilderness as can be found anywhere in

Southern California. It begins directly behind the city of Santa Barbara and extends fifty miles northward to the top of the county. It stretches eastward to the Ventura County line, which bisects the national forest. The forest itself extends through all of northern Ventura County and continues to the Los Angeles County line. Here it blends with the Angeles National Forest. If all lands of the Los Padres National Forest are considered, the astonishing total of 2,016,082 acres is attained, making it the largest national forest in California. For

our purposes, however, we will limit our exploration to those areas found within Santa Barbara County.

Drive to the top of El Camino Cielo — the sky road — which follows the crest of the Santa Ynez Mountains. From these heights, which separate the coastal areas from the back country, you will be presented with a choice of magnificent views. South, you will see the endless Pacific, the Channel Islands, and the coastal plains. Northward your gaze will meet almost limitless mountain ranges. The longest and highest mountain ridge to the north will be Big Pine Mountain. Southeast of Big Pine is spectacular, jagged-cliffed Madulce Mountain. Forbiddingly hot and dry in the summer, the back country wilderness becomes friendly again after the season's first rains. Later in the winter, the rain turns to snow on these high peaks.

Fifty years ago, the passes through these mountains were used by cattlemen driving herds fattened on high grasses in the mountain potreros. Now the land is held primarily as a watershed and secondarily as a recreational resource. The cattle have not disappeared entirely, however. Grazing rights are still held by the owners of isolated ranches whose property adjoins the forest preserve.

Directly behind Santa Barbara's southern coastal plains rise the slopes of the Santa Ynez Mountains. These primarily sandstone ridges are new in a geological sense of time. Experts place them around 25 million years old.

Throughout the range, many fossils of sea animals occur, showing that this land mass once was far beneath the Pacific.

Behind this range lies the Santa Ynez River. Beginning just within the county's eastern boundary, the river flows almost due west until it empties into the Pacific at the end of the Lompoc Valley.

In the forest area behind Santa Barbara the river valley is narrow and deep. Small tributary streams flowing from the north slopes of the Santa Ynez range and the south slopes of the San Rafael mountains lead into the deeper parts of the wilderness.

Entrance to the rugged San Rafael Mountains can be gained from the Santa Ynez River on trails that lead north through many canyons. Trails to Little Pine, Big Pine, Old Man and many other wilderness peaks start along the Santa Ynez River. The San Rafael mountains contain an endless variety of scenic beauty.

North of the imposing main ridge of the San Rafael mountains lies an intermediate mountain chain, still part of the San Rafael mountains, but not so heavily wooded. Much of this chain is set aside as a Primitive Area and with one or two minor exceptions along its eastern boundary, no roads of any kind penetrate it. The Primitive Area is bordered on the south by Manzana Creek and its deep canyon and on the north by the Sisquoc River. These streams join at the western extremity of the range. The Sisquoc continues westward out of the forest to flow into the Santa Maria River and on to the sea.

North of the Sisquoc rise the lofty Sierra Madres. The grass covered tops of this range are used extensively for cattle grazing by ranchers of the Cuyama Valley, along the northern rim of Santa Barbara County.

While the Santa Ynez Range consists primarily of sandstone and soft conglomerate layers, the mountains behind present a wide variety of geological forms. Many peaks of the San Rafael mountains contain the dark red of cinnabar, the ore from which mercury is extracted. Colorful layers of shiny blue-green serpentine are also found in quantity, particularly in the area extending from Figueroa Mountain to Ranger Peak. Scattered outcroppings of conglomerate, limestone and alabaster are also found.

Visible throughout the county is the white, stratified, diatomaceous earth. Formed millions of years ago by microscopic sea animals called diatoms, these skeletal remains lie in deposits of great depth.

Viewed from Santa Barbara, the coastal range seems covered with a mass of formless black vegetation. This is the chaparral belt, abounding with plant life. Among the dominant plants of the chaparral are the scrub oak and the *Ceanothus* or buckthorn. Often called mountain lilac, it comes into bloom early in the year and adds a fresh, frosty look to the mountainsides. Closer observation rewards the viewer with the sight of blossoms ranging from deep blue to near white.

Canyons and watersheds of the chaparral belt also contain a variety of trees ranging from the large-leaved sycamore to the long, narrow-leaved mountain laurel or bay tree. Higher up, the slopes are covered with beautifully formed and brightly colored manzanita bushes. Their light green leaves form a colorful pattern against the deep, glossy



This fine specimen of manzanita grows beside Painted Cave Road above Santa Barbara.

red and peeling bark of their trunks. Occasional groves and individual madrones stand out sharply along the highest ridges. Cousins of the manzanita, these trees have larger leaves and lighter bark but have a family similarity.

Beginning on the highest peaks of the Santa Ynez Range, many varieties of conifers are found. Coulter and digger pines are seen along La Cumbre Peak. In the San Rafael, there are many stands of tall, stately fir, spruce, pine and other evergreens.

Rainfall averages around 17 inches a year throughout the county, but the mountain ranges receive far greater amounts, and in winter snow is common on the peaks. The snow seldom lasts

long, but the plant life benefits from this slow-melting and deep-soaking moisture.

For many years, Santa Barbara County's main rivers and streams have dried up in the heat of the long summer; they stop running by late June or early July. Farther back in the wilderness, however, the smaller tributaries often run all year long and provide spawning ground for native trout.

Long before the snow has melted from the highest peaks, the mountainsides burst forth in blossom. The colorful show of wild flowers covers acre upon acre of mountain meadows and slopes with brilliant hues.

Most colorful of all is lupine. Masses of their

brilliant blue are often mixed with the bright orange of the state flower, the golden California poppy. Hundreds of varieties of other colorful wild flowers are to be seen along the wilderness trails throughout the entire open season.

Many of the back country trails traverse desert-like terrain. Here yucca and cactus raise up an almost impenetrable wall alongside the trails. Yucca — often called Spanish bayonet — will cut through the toughest boot leather, causing a painful sting.

Much of the Santa Barbara District of the Los Padres National Forest is closed to entry during the hot summer months for the protection of the watershed as well as the people who might use it. The closed season usually begins on the first of July and ends with the first good rain in the fall. Plans are under way to open more of the readily accessible recreational areas throughout the year. But first the Forest Service must complete its plan for fighting fire from heliports located at strategic spots throughout the wilderness. The plan also includes more extensive clearing of existing recreation areas and camping sites.

At the present time, there are many camping areas easily reached by automobile. Most of these are open throughout the year. Roads to some are unsurfaced, but are graded several times a year for the benefit of the campers, hunters and fishermen who use them.

While many points of interest may be reached by automobile, the beauty of the inner wilderness may only be enjoyed by those who are willing to walk or ride in. Horse and foot trails cross the entire district and campsites are maintained deep in the back country.

Many of the trails entering the wilderness have been used for centuries; remains of ancient Indian camping places may be found along them, in the deepest reaches of the forest. Many trails, while nearly overgrown, may still be traced and followed by a good woodsman.

The Forest Service keeps a number of trails in excellent condition to give access to the more prominent peaks and streams. Big Pine and Little Pine trails, and the trail up the Sisquoc River, are three major avenues of entrance into the most primitive reaches of this beautiful land.

Traveling along one of these well-marked trails offers many pleasant surprises. In the farthest

meadows there are remnants of early homesteads. Old and crumbling adobes, log cabins and frame houses long deserted, are often seen. Along the upper Sisquoc are the abandoned farms of a colony of Mormon settlers. Only an occasional buckboard or rusty plow remains to give a hint to the kind of life these people tried to carve from the narrow, fertile but remote valley.

Trout fishermen find it worth their while to pack in to the headwaters of many of Santa Barbara County's mountain streams, for native trout of good size are found where the fishing activity is not so great.

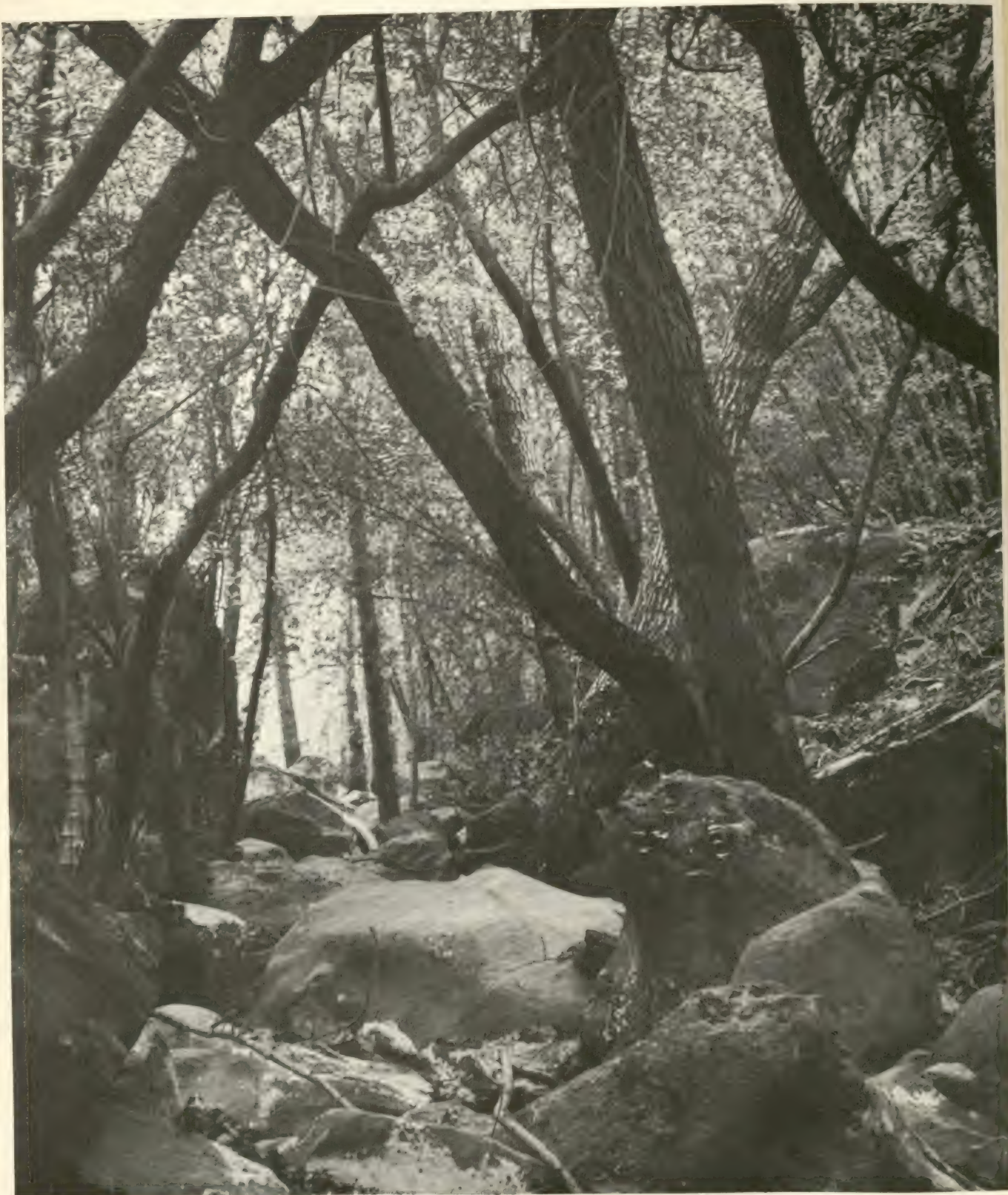
Deer hunters who enjoy the mountain scenery as much as the search for game, often travel by horseback, moving from one primitive camp to another. These camps are usually spaced just under a day's journey apart.

Early in the 1800's, pelt hunters found otter, beaver and other fur bearing animals in quantity all along the county's streams and rivers. Their heavy trapping caused the disappearance of these creatures from the area. In recent years beaver have been planted by the Forest Service so that the mountain streams might be dammed and the water conserved.

The baying of hounds is often heard along the trails in the wee hours of the morning and many a camper has been awakened by a hound sniffing around his sleeping bag. Coon hunters begin the hunt in the hours after midnight and continue their search for the wily coon until daybreak.

Another popular mountain sport is the tracking and killing of the mountain lion. Until the spring of 1962, the county offered a bounty on this king of the mountaintops. The reduction of the lion population, however, resulted in an overpopulation of deer. It has been a question as to which animal does the rancher the most damage. While the lion will occasionally kill a calf or a sheep, the deer make short work of range grasses when their numbers increase.

Coyote, fox, opossum, bear, bobcat and badger are also found in the wilderness area. The elk, which once grazed here in quantity, disappeared about the turn of the century. Mountain quail, doves and wild pigeons flourish, but larger game birds have not survived, though attempts have been made to establish them in the back country.



Summer Heat

Cold winter rains and snow flurries give way to hot summer sun. As the temperature soars, the streams cease to flow

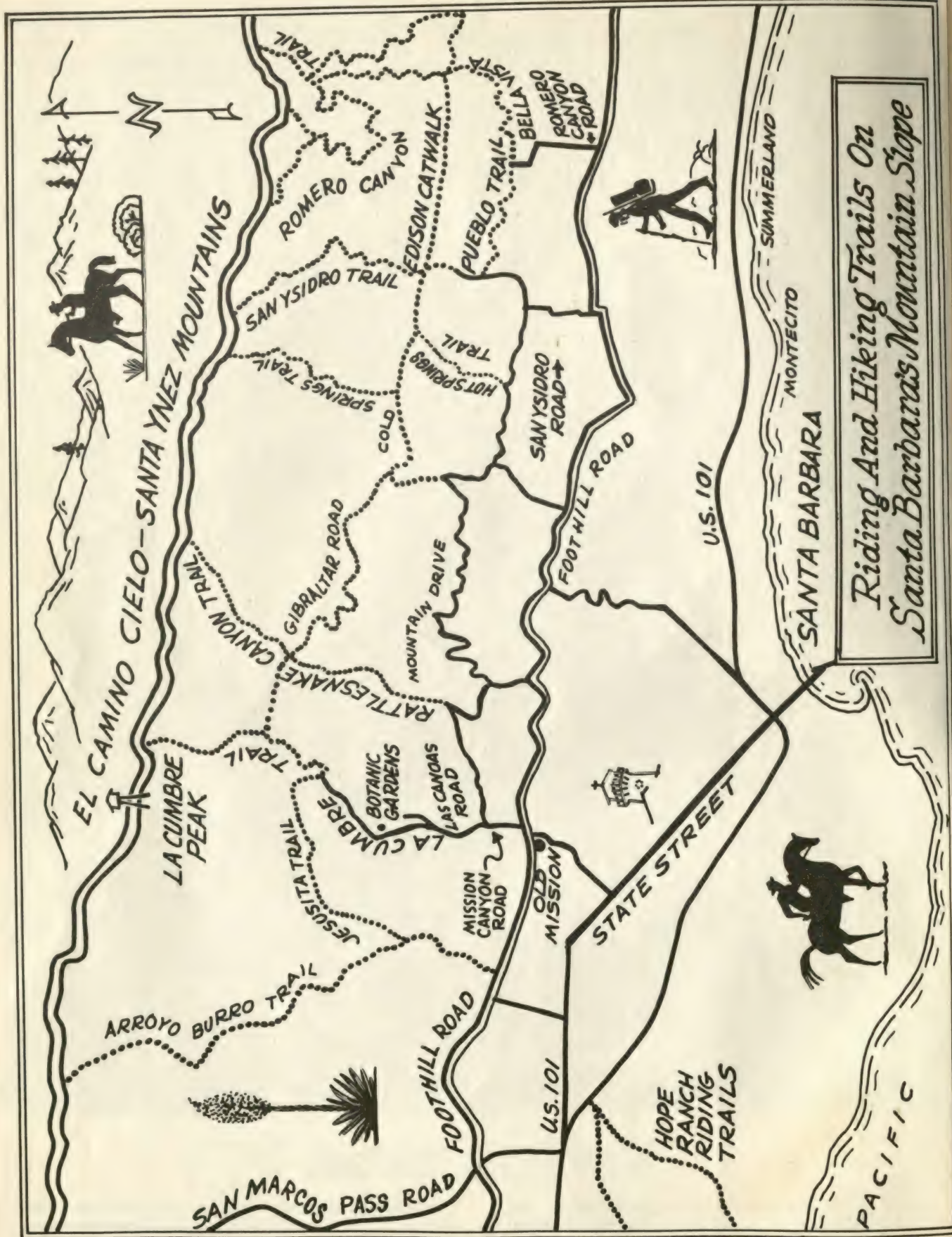
and the lush green of the mountain's winter cover turns to golden browns and dusty grays. Fire danger is extreme.



Winter Snow

When cold winds blow, rain on the coast often means snow in the mountains. In January 1962 a mantle of snow covered

the Santa Ynez Mountains and reached far down the coastal slopes, providing a rare treat for Santa Barbarans.



*Riding And Hiking Trails On
Santa Barbara's Mountain Slope*



A stand of native cactus at Santa Barbara's Botanic Gardens.

The Santa Ynez Mountains

Behind the city of Santa Barbara, a network of trails leads up through canyons and along stream beds to the top of the Santa Ynez Mountains.

Many of these trails are kept up by members of trail riding groups. Most of the trails are well marked and provide good footing for man and beast. They start in lush canyon bottoms, lead up steep slopes, and follow across rocky ledges to the top of the mountains. From the top, there are breathtaking views of the entire coastal area and the rugged slopes of the back country.

LA CUMBRE TRAIL leads up Mission Creek to the end of Tunnel Road, where a good open trail carries on to the peak. You can also drive to the end of Tunnel Road and pick up the trail beyond the locked gate to Mission Tunnel.

At the top of La Cumbre Trail, you can walk east on El Camino Cielo to the top of RATTLE-SNAKE CANYON TRAIL. This will bring you back down to Las Canoas Road.

Farther east there is a good way to the top of the mountains on COLD SPRINGS TRAIL. This

starts at Mountain Drive and is a difficult trail on horseback. It is used only by the most trailwise horse and rider groups.

Popular with residents of the Montecito area is SAN YSIDRO TRAIL, which begins in the foothills where San Ysidro Road turns east. From the top of this trail, a return route farther east can be found at Romero Canyon.

Riding groups from Montecito often use these trails to ride over to the Santa Ynez River through Blue Canyon on the other side.

The ROMERO CANYON TRAIL leaves the

automobile road near the top of the mountain. This trail offers a delightful view of the coastline to the south. The horse trail stays with the road, but a walk up the creek itself is very rewarding and takes you through a wet canyon, lush with vegetation. Higher up, the vegetation thins out and the trail becomes quite rocky toward the top. Once the top is reached, there is a continuation down Juncal Road to a marked point just above Escondido Canyon. Here the trail goes down into Blue Canyon where there are two good primitive camps. The area beyond the creek, however, is usually closed in summer.



Looking south from the top of the Santa Ynez Range, the broad sweep of the green Goleta Valley and the deep blue of the Pacific are revealed in startling perspective.



Above: Mountains and sky are a blend of shades of gray at dusk as a blanket of fog settles on the lower slopes of the Santa Ynez range. Below: A chill dawn wind scatters the

low-lying fog and reveals a wide vista of ranges and peaks. This "show" takes place every morning. The price—a 15-minute drive from still-slumbering Santa Barbara.





Adventure in the Rocks

The caves in rock outcroppings along the top of the mountains above Santa Barbara offer endless possibilities to young explorers.

The smooth-worn sandstone "ribs" of the Santa Ynez Mountains stick out all along the summit—providing innumerable exciting perches from which to view the ocean and valley below.





This swimming hole holds water all year but its location is a secret known only to a very few youngsters living near the top of San Marcos Pass.

Behind Carpinteria there are many trails that offer access to the back country. One begins at TORO CANYON, another goes up SANTA MONICA CANYON. These two reach the top by joining with the main trail leading up FRANKLIN CANYON. This trail continues on down to Jameson Lake behind Juncal Dam, the source of Montecito's water supply. Another major trail leads up along RINCON CREEK and comes to the top above Juncal Dam. This trail continues on down to the Santa Ynez River and crosses to meet the trail to OLD MAN MOUNTAIN and MONTE ARIDO, at the county's eastern boundary.

West of Santa Barbara, there are many trails that begin in the foothills. ARROYO BURRO TRAIL goes to the top from San Roque Canyon. It reaches the summit near the automobile road that goes down to the Santa Barbara County 4-H Club Summer Camp at White Oak Flats just above the Santa Ynez River.

An old and long-abandoned trail good only for hiking goes up BARGER CANYON just a few miles farther west and meets with the Arroyo Burro Trail about halfway to the top. This trail, which begins at the end of a private road, is popular with youngsters of the Hope district.

There are many trails in the Goleta foothills, but access to them is through private property and permission must be obtained before taking them to the top. One well-used equestrian trail winds along the oak covered hillsides just below the San Marcos golf course; a pleasant afternoon ride may be highlighted with a dip in a clear pool in San Antonio Creek.

Along the top of the Santa Ynez Mountains, from Refugio Pass on the west to Romero Canyon Road on the east, is El Camino Cielo. From the summit of San Marcos Pass the access to East El Camino Cielo can be gained. This is well surfaced as far east as La Cumbre Peak and offers a commanding view of Santa Barbara, the harbor and the Channel Islands. Adventurous drivers may take Romero Canyon Road down from the top at the east end of El Camino. This road is rocky and hugs the edges of steep drops in many places and is not recommended for those unaccustomed to mountain driving. It is a one-way road in many

spots and requires careful negotiating of hairpin turns. Just before the summit of San Marcos Pass West El Camino starts. Only a small part of this is surfaced, but, like its eastern half, it too offers wonderful views of the ocean and the Goleta valley far below. Directly above Goleta's Patterson Avenue is the picnic area known as Goddard's Camp. Here there is adequate room for group picnics and outings. The site is high and offers access to many interesting wind sculptured rock formations just below on the ocean-side slopes.

From this beginning, one can also walk down to Slippery Rock, where the deep ruts from Santa Barbara's early stagecoach road over the pass may still be seen in the solid rock. Here, too, is the general area where Colonel John C. Frémont is said to have camped prior to capturing Santa Barbara for the United States in 1847.

Farther along the road west there are many places to stop and walk down into the rock formations along dry washes. Many of the rocks in this area contain shallow caves that offered shelter for Indians. In some places one can find faint signs of paintings on the roofs of these caves. In canyons leading down to the Goleta Valley careful searching will disclose paintings near springs in the stream beds.

Farther west the road turns to the north of Santa Ynez Peak and offers a good view of the valley, Cachuma Dam and the lake behind it. Ranch buildings in the valley look like toys from this lofty viewpoint.

The road continues westward for some 18 miles and is passable except when washed out by heavy winter rains. It ends at the top of Refugio Pass where a well-surfaced road drops down to the ocean and Highway 101 for a quick return to Santa Barbara. The road to the right of the tip of Refugio Pass takes a meandering course down the north slope to the Santa Ynez Valley. The return to Santa Barbara can be made on Highway 154.

Leading down from the top of the Santa Ynez Mountains are many trails to the Santa Ynez River. Only a few people today use them to gain access to the back country. But in the years before good roads, these trails were heavily traveled by people on foot and on horseback.

News-Press columnist Henry Ewald recalls his



The lake behind Gibraltar Dam presents a glistening contrast to the arid landscape surrounding it. This view is from El Camino Cielo as the road cuts to the north behind La Cumbre Peak.

trips to the Santa Ynez River as a boy. On Saturday evenings, he and other local youths would start up the mountain by way of La Cumbre Trail. From the top, they made their way down to the Santa Ynez over the trail in the dark. They would sleep until light—at the most three or four hours—and then would fish all day before taking the long steep trail back. Often they went to school on Monday morning with only a few hours of sleep for the en-

tire week-end in the outdoors.

Before the white man populated the coastal valley, the Indians who lived on the ocean used the trails to go inland for game and for trading trips. The trails you take today are the same as those used by the redmen in crossing the range. Many artifacts have been found along the way, especially in places where the travelers had cached supplies in shallow caves to make the journey easier.



Trails leading down the back slope of the Santa Ynez Range offer access to the Santa Ynez River.

Trails and Campsites Beyond the Santa Ynez Peaks

The downslope extension of the ARROYO BURRO TRAIL is the easiest route to the OSO CAMP area from the top of the mountains. It is now a well bulldozed road and can be traveled by automobile. LEWIS CANYON to the west has a foot trail emerging on the valley floor at about the same point. This trail starts down from El Camino Cielo in the saddle behind Painted Cave.

Trails suitable for riding groups lead down from ROMERO CANYON saddle through BLUE CANYON to the Santa Ynez above Gibraltar Dam.

Other trails to the east are shown on the map and are clearly marked where they leave El Camino Cielo.

Some horse groups use these trails after climbing to the Santa Ynez summit from Santa Barbara and Montecito. Today, however, the popular way is to save time by trailering stock to the camps along the Santa Ynez River. P-Bar Campground, Mono Campground and Juncal Campground often have trailers and riders based there during the prime trail season.



The Santa Ynez River

Before Gibraltar Dam was built to supply water to coastal Santa Barbara, the entire length of the Santa Ynez River was available for summer recreation. Today, the only easily accessible part is below

Gibraltar Dam. Above the dam there are several excellent campsites, but they must be reached by traveling over the top of the Santa Ynez Range east of La Cumbre Peak.



Cattails form a strong black and white pattern—an ideal photographic subject. The Santa Ynez River has many stands of these waterside plants.

The Santa Ynez River runs most of the year and during the wet season it is a broad river with fast running water too high to ford at the popular crossings above the main public camps.

Trout are planted at regular intervals during the season and the stream is heavily fished. Catchable trout have little chance to turn native—they're

more apt to turn brown in a skillet near the river. While there are several public camps along the lower part of the river, they are usually well occupied by picnic groups and campers. The area just above the Los Prietos Boys Camp crossing is not so heavily used and offers more breathing room.



This stately clump of trees is on the road to Pendola Guard Station, in the Santa Ynez Valley above Gibraltar Dam.

The first camp beyond the crossing is OSO. Situated right on the river, it has several good swimming holes and a number of campsites well spaced. There are fine trees here to provide shade. A road leads to the north from Oso Camp to UPPER OSO. Here, just a short way from the Santa Ynez, Oso Creek runs through a wide and pleasant valley. There is a large camp with room for many people. From here you can make several short walking trips into the San Rafael Range. Trails lead from the camp to many canyons and mountains to the north.

On the other side and above the river, there is a 4-H Club summer camp on WHITE OAK FLATS. This is also reached from the top by a road leading off El Camino Cielo. SANTA YNEZ and RED ROCK camps are also in this area and are very popular on hot days, for the swimming holes are

usually fine throughout the year. On some summer days there's hardly room to swim, however, for the people of the Santa Ynez Valley often go there to escape the heat.

Both the county and Forest Service maintain camps just below the Los Prietos Boys Camp crossing. They are marked on the accompanying map.

The Santa Ynez is a beautiful, tree-bordered river. Stately sycamores, alders, laurels, willows, and cottonwoods grow in abundance. Along the edge of the river there are often marshy places filled with cattails, and in the shallows one sees hundreds of goldfish shimmering in the sun. Japanese fishermen years ago used the goldfish for bait in the upper Santa Ynez. Some of the goldfish remained behind the dam until a heavy rain season caused the dam to spill for several weeks. The heavy flow of water dislodged the goldfish from



The cool waters of the Santa Ynez River are most welcome after a ride across the hills.

their home above and now they are found all the way to the ocean. Many pools also contain the California pond turtle; slow on land, they defy capture in the water.

JUNCAL CAMP will be found where the Santa Ynez River is crossed by Juncal Road. Water is piped into this camp, and it is large enough to accommodate six parties. There are clean toilet facilities. No trailers are allowed.

The next camp downstream is on a short road running due north at the junction of AGUA CALIENTE CREEK with the Santa Ynez River. It is just behind the Pandola Guard Station. The camp can accommodate two groups.

Back on the Santa Ynez and below the Agua Caliente junction there is a camp along the river

bed just north of the road. This is P-BAR CAMP. Stoves are placed in a pleasant grove of giant oaks. There's room for two groups and it has toilets but no running water. Cooking water can be obtained from the main stream of the Santa Ynez not too far from the camp.

Just before P-Bar is MID SANTA YNEZ CAMP. Situated on the river, it offers space for only one or two parties. There is no running water piped here, but as at P-Bar, water may be easily obtained from the river. Farther down the river road to MONO FLATS, an exceptionally fine camp for large groups. There is good swimming in the pool below Mono Debris Dam. Trailers are allowed here; there are six regulation stoves and good toilet facilities.

Streams that Feed the Santa Ynez

Mono Debris Dam offers a challenge to campers at Mono Flats. The climb to the top presents problems at the start. The reward is a good swimming hole behind the dam.



One of the most popular fishing and hunting areas within the forest is along the upper Santa Cruz Creek, which enters the Santa Ynez from the north near Gibraltar Dam. It runs through private ranch land until it enters the forest boundary several miles north of the river, and for that reason, the forest trail to the best part of the creek is long and difficult.

A good way to get to the upper Santa Cruz is by way of the Little Pine Trail running north to the top of Little Pine Mountain from Upper Oso Camp. At Little Pine, you turn west and walk over a rough trail to the upper Santa Cruz.

Another area to be entered from this trail turns off to the east across the top of Little Pine Mountain and continues over a big basin to the top of

Buckhorn Creek. You can also walk to this creek from the Mono area.

Above Gibraltar Dam are Mono Creek and its tributaries, the Indian and the Buckthorn. East of the Mono and upstream are Agua Caliente Creek and its main tributary, the Little Diablo. The latter stream travels from the east until it meets the Agua Caliente just above the silt dam.

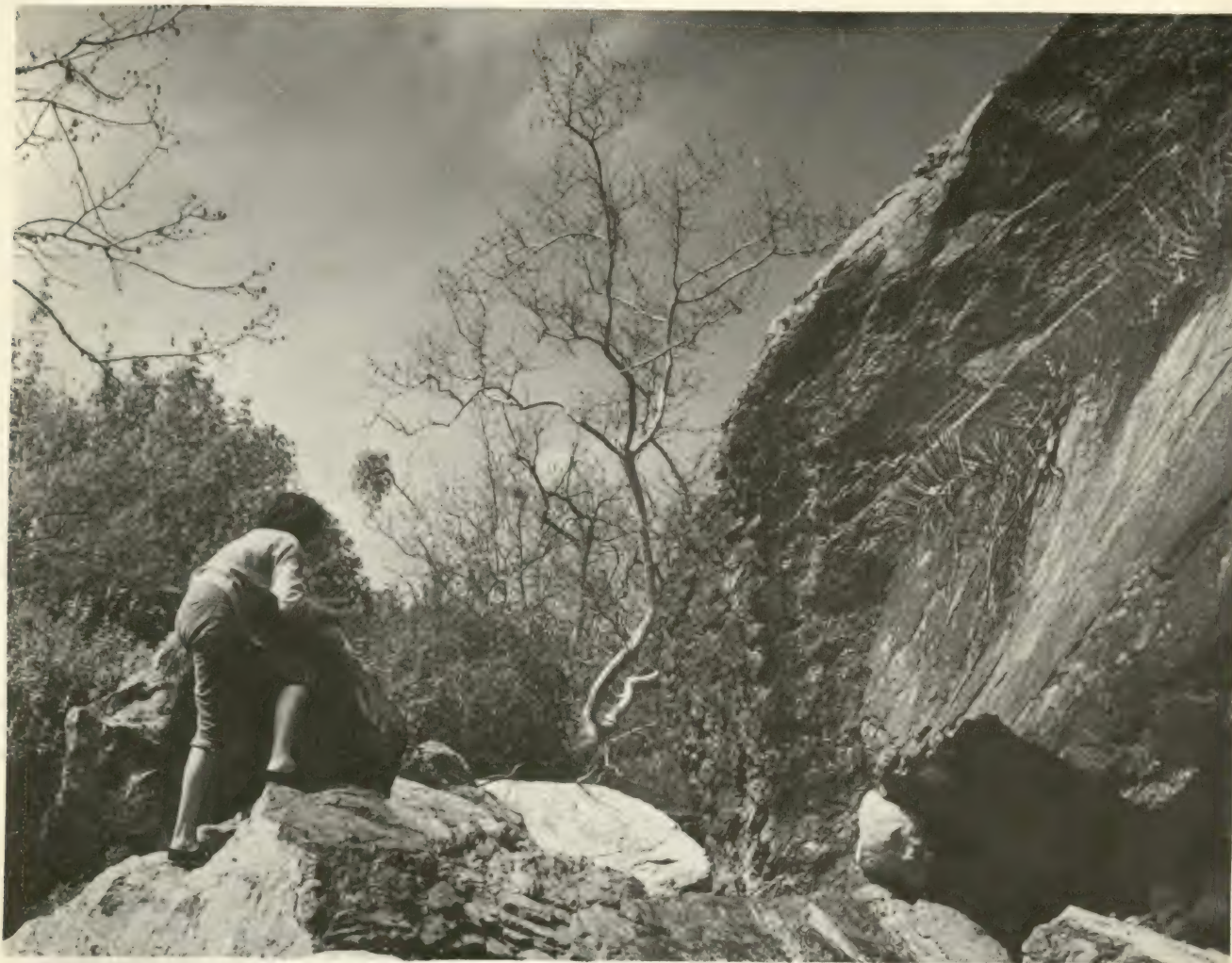
From the north slope of the Santa Ynez Mountains, Escondido Creek makes its way down to the Santa Ynez River. It runs through Blue Canyon and joins the river near the reservoir behind Gibraltar Dam. Blue Canyon has two camps in the heavy trees on the slope and it once supported a homestead. The Forest Service burned the buildings several years ago to eliminate a fire hazard.

Los Laureles Creek is a fine fishing creek—but its entrance at the south side of the Santa Ynez runs through ranch property and is posted with “no trespassing” signs. Years ago, before the city folk

had worn out their welcome on ranch lands by leaving tin cans and garbage on the trails, this creek was very popular. There are still fish in great abundance in the stream.



Deep, clear swimming holes that never go dry can be found all along Oso Creek behind Upper Oso Camp. The road beyond the camp boundary is closed to hikers during the fire danger periods.



The trail to Little Pine Mountain begins at Upper Oso Camp. It is an easy day's walk to the top and back.

Along Oso Creek

Above and to the west of Oso Creek on the way to Little Pine Mountain, there are several small meadows containing spring-fed pools. Turtles abound in these cool waters.



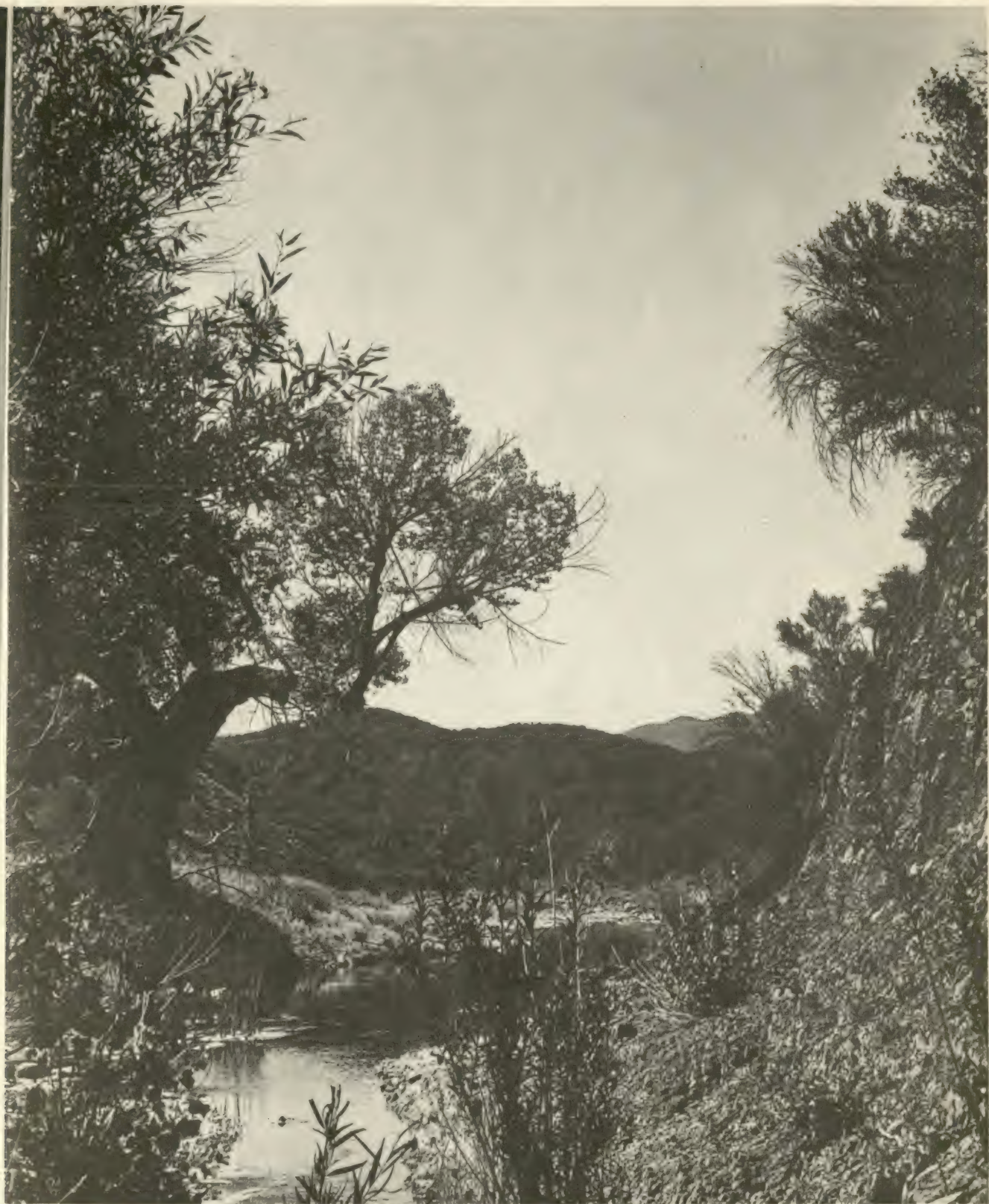


A popular swimming hole is just below Mono Debris Dam.



Mono Flats Full of Interest

The adobe building at the bottom of Mono Flats was built around the turn of the century. It is now used by the Forest Service.



Above Mono Debris Dam is the trail up Indian Creek. The stream contains many tree-shaded pools ideal for a cool dip on a warm day.



Andy Chavez and Kenny Frecia get ready for a swim in the pool below Mono Silt Dam. The boys were on an overnight trip with a Camp Conestoga group.

An easy one-day trip into the back country above the Santa Ynez River can be made from Upper Oso Camp. A trail leads due north along Oso Creek to the short trail leading to the first primitive camp at Nineteen Oaks, where springs flow from the high meadow and down into the camp. There are two picnic tables in the oak grove, and a good stove with a cement trough for stock. The camp is on a short spur above the trail. This main trail continues on up toward Little Pine Mountain. It is a good horse trail but has several shale ledges that are dangerous unless both horse and rider are trailwise. The distance is about seven miles from Oso Camp to the top of Little Pine.

Happy Hollow is a primitive camp just off the summit. There are remains of a stock corral, and a regulation stove is at the site, but it is not designated as an official camp on Forest Service maps. To make a complete circle and see new country on the return, you can take the Alexander Trail from the saddle at the western slope of Little Pine. This is an easy horse trail back down to a ridge to the west of Oso Canyon. It returns to the trail at the point where Camuesa Road turns east. Camuesa Road, closed to automobiles, provides good footing for horses right to the top of Camuesa Peak, directly north of Gibraltar Dam. Keeping to the north fork of this road will take you to the top of Little Pine Mountain. And, if you travel past the road up Camuesa Peak on its eastward leg, you'll reach Indian Creek just above Mono Silt Dam.

Because there are so many trails to travel, and so many attractions along the way, no attempt is made here to plan for stopping places for overnight camping. Before making such a trip, consult the maps, acquire a current Forest Service map, mark it with information from these pages and plan your stops carefully. A mistake in your timing might put you on rough terrain at nightfall still miles from a place to cook and camp for the night in reasonable comfort.

There is reason for the popularity of MONO FLATS. Youngsters want to climb up the cliffs at the side of the dam to see what is behind. If they

wish to make an easier climb, there are trails leading up the hill at the north of the camp, and a road around the east side of the hill that will bring them right down to the stream bed above the dam.

Mono Debris Dam was built to collect the silt running down Mono and Indian creeks. It was planned that this dam would have a long and useful life keeping the reservoir behind Gibraltar Dam free from a build-up of silt. This was not the case. In 1931, a fire in the Mono and Caliente areas burned off thousands of acres of brush and timber. The following winter heavy rains carried the unprotected soil down these streams in a muddy avalanche. The Mono and Agua Caliente silt dams filled up within a few days and the continuing rains carried the mud and silt on down into Gibraltar Reservoir. Before the rainy season was over, Gibraltar had lost half its storage capacity. It remained that way until a cap was added to the top of the dam in 1950. Both the Mono and Agua Caliente silt dams remain full, their usefulness lost until the silt is removed from behind them.

Just behind Mono Flats and within walking distance, there is a hot spring. A road branches off just a short distance above the dam leading right to it. A locked gate bars the area to automobiles.

The road leading north past PENDOLA GUARD STATION is usually open to automobiles as far as another hot spring. This pleasant and therapeutic pool is kept in good condition by the Forest Service. Water from above has been piped to a small cement basin. There is a tiny dressing shelter for men and women. In dry years the pool has a sulphurous smell but is remarkably clear and hot when the winter rains have been heavy.

Above the hot springs pool the road is often washed out by winter rains and is not always in driving condition. However, it is not more than a few minutes' walk to the AGUA CALIENTE SILT DAM. The road makes a good trail, or one can walk up the creek bed. In wet years the water continues to spill over the dam as long as the forest is open.



In full bloom the Yucca, sometimes called God's candlestick, adds beauty and grace to many of the most rugged mountains in the back country.

The Rugged San Rafael Mountains



A giant valley oak frames Zaca Peak in the San Rafael Range. The view is north on the Figueroa Mountain Road in the Santa Ynez Valley.

High peaks, often covered with a mantle of snow, rise majestically behind the Santa Ynez Valley. These are the San Rafael Mountains. Some of the county's finest scenery is in the canyons and along the sides of these pine covered slopes. Here are streams that run throughout the year, the home of native trout sought by ardent fishermen.

Trails form a connecting network throughout this range. The scenery ranges from desert plateaus covered with sagebrush and yucca, to heavily forested slopes; sparkling streams and dry washes are equally representative of this area.

Hiking the remote trails, you will come upon cabins marking the location of a long-gone homestead or ranch. Some of the cabins are kept up

by the Forest Service as shelter for rangers who patrol the area during the hot fire-dangerous summers. BLUFF CAMP, just below the summit of Big Pine Mountain, is one of these. It must have been a real hermitage, for it is hard to believe that a homesteader could get his family to live in a place so far removed from the rest of the world.

An exciting trail to follow is the one that leads from the Cachuma Guard Station, over Cachuma Mountain to San Rafael Creek. Just about all the wildlife representative of the forest will be encountered here, for the trail is seldom used by man. It is well marked, however, and water from sweet, cool springs will provide the traveler with plenty of refreshment along the way.



The road to Zaca Peak runs across the Figueroa Catway where a magnificent view of the inner San Rafael Range may be seen from between the tall pines.



The long ridge of Big Pine Mountain is seen here from the Potrero Seco Trail.

The County's Mountain Backbone



A fire-blackened pine stands in stark relief against the peaks and canyons that form the backbone of the county.



Red Rock quicksilver mine is a deserted ruin, near Figueroa Mountain.

The road through Happy Canyon, beginning where State Highway 154 crosses the Santa Ynez River, leads to the camp sites and picnic spots in the Figueroa Mountain area. Beyond the last ranch in Happy Canyon, a good dirt road winds over the Cachuma Saddle. Worth noting as you pass is the Red Rock quicksilver mine. The dilapidated buildings still contain parts of the original retort and crusher used in the process of freeing the liquid metal from the cinnabar. The steep cliffs in the area are a dark red typical of mercury-bearing ore. Before the climb to the mine, you will reach CACHUMA CAMP where there are several good camp sites and a stream that runs for most of the year. This is a Forest Service camp complete with regulation cookstoves and garbage cans. The road leads up the hill to Cachuma Guard Station, and then forks. A turn to the left leads over the top of pine-covered Ranger Peak and on to JUNCTION CAMP and neighboring FIGUEROA CAMP. Both of these camps are in pleasant wooded

sites with several accommodations. Figueroa Camp is being enlarged and will be completed in 1963.

The road continues past the camp to Figueroa Mountain where another branch, to the right, takes you to Figueroa Lookout, where in a high forest of huge yellow pines, there are tables and accommodations for day camping.

Returning to the main road and continuing on another mile brings you to a sign pointing to the Catway between Figueroa and Zaca peaks. This delightful road runs through a heavy stand of fir and spruce and at one point crosses a saddle which in springtime is covered with flowering lupine. There are two picnic spots along this short road. At the end of the good road, a jeep road, usually open, continues on to Zaca Peak and offers a good view of Zaca Lake, the only natural lake in the county. The lake and the property around it are under private ownership and closed to entry. Returning along this same road brings you to the Catway turnoff from the main road. Continuing



Campsites in the forest are often surprisingly comfortable. This camper finds a well-made picnic table at a site miles from any road.

westward on this road will bring you down from the San Rafael Mountains to the Santa Ynez Valley at Los Olivos.

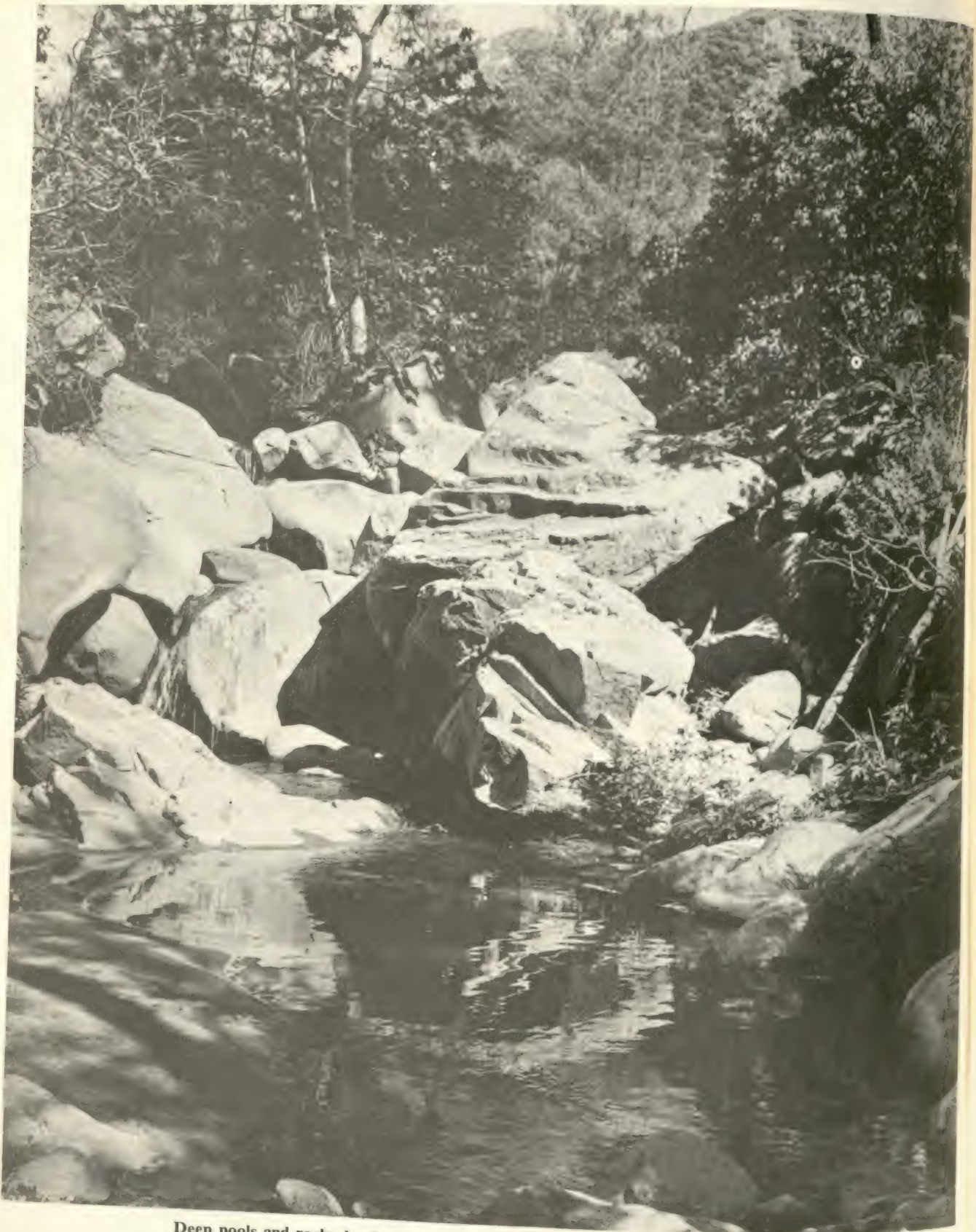
This trip is easily taken by automobile in six or seven hours and will allow ample time to stop and view the back country from many points along the way. It is worth while to drive to the top of Figueroa Lookout, from where a commanding view of the inner San Rafaels opens before you. A jeep trail leads from the end of the Catway down to Davey Brown Creek; don't go this way unless you do have a jeep, for there are many steep grades and sharp, soft earth turns.

Back at the Cachuma Guard Station, the road leading straight ahead goes on to DAVEY BROWN CAMP. Here the fishing is good during the trout season. The streams are stocked with catchable trout, and the many trails up and down stream lead to excellent fishing spots within walking and wading distance of the camp. In the early part of the year swimming is wonderful; the area is open

year-round. Facilities are adequate for comfortable camping.

From Davey Brown, the road continues on down Davey Brown Canyon to where the stream flows into Manzana Creek. Just beyond the junction is NIRA CAMP. This is also an excellent spot for fishermen, for the Manzana Canyon extends in both directions and is easily walked. A locked gate at the end of the camp is posted with the notice that no vehicular travel is allowed beyond the gate. This is the entrance to the San Rafael Primitive Area. It is also a base camp for those who want to take the many trails into the main forest areas.

Hurricane Deck, a high, windswept ridge of rocky outcroppings, can be reached from here by two trails. You take off just beyond FISH CREEK CAMP, a primitive site along the Manzana, upstream from Nira. To get to Hurricane Deck along this trail, you continue past Fish Creek Camp for about a mile to Sulphur Springs Canyon which enters Manzana Canyon from the northeast. The



Deep pools and rocky banks mark the length of Sulphur Springs Canyon Creek, one of the streams that empty into the Manzana above Nira Campground.



Young backpackers take "time out" for a brief rest along one of the trails. Each year thousands of youngsters like these enjoy the benefits of the great forest preserve. On overnight hikes such as these boys are making, the lessons of conservation and self-reliance are learned first-hand.



The dead hulks of old forest giants provide good nesting places for birds atop Big Pine Mountain in the San Rafael Range.



Bald Mountain in the San Rafael Primitive Area offers little sustenance to even the hardest specimens of native growth.

The Primitive Area of the San Rafaels

Hurricane Deck's windswept skyline is seldom viewed by travelers though access to the area is not difficult for experienced hikers.





For the Adventurous

Hard-to-find Pool Rock, in Lost Valley Canyon, is well named. Rains fill the deep basin, worn in solid rock, to make an excellent swimming hole.

Rock-pierced, brush covered slopes are typical of the inner San Rafael.





The trail down Lost Valley Canyon.

trail up Sulphur Springs Canyon is not marked, but by continuing upstream, you will eventually be on top of Hurricane Deck at a point just due west of White Ledge Canyon. This canyon leads from the Deck down into the Sisquoc.

Another way to get up on Hurricane Deck is by the Lost Valley Canyon jeep road. This road has been abandoned, but it is easy walking and provides an entrance to the sandstone reefs and caves on the south slopes of the inner San Rafael Range. Many of the short canyons that lead off to the north from this road contain caves decorated with pictographs by the Indians who lived in the area hundreds of years ago.

In one of these small canyons is Pool Rock, a great mass of sandstone on top of which is a large basin holding water long after the year's rains have ceased. There are cairns along the way to guide those who wish to search for it.

Continuing along Lost Valley Canyon Road brings you to the end of the canyon where the road begins a series of switchbacks up one side of the canyon wall. At the end of the switchbacks is Hur-

ricane Deck. There is no water available in the area, so before attempting the long day's trek be sure you have a full canteen as well as a map and compass. There are no campsites in this area and fires are not permitted.

A few hardy and adventurous parties camp overnight in this beautiful yet desolate terrain, but it is a cold place on a spring night and one needs a warm sleeping bag.

Many archeological discoveries have been made on the Hurricane Deck, helping to fill gaps in the history of the Indian tribes of the Santa Barbara region. One such find brought to light a mystery. A small band of Indians had cached food consisting of seeds and nuts in baskets. These baskets were found intact in the wind hollows of a huge sandstone formation. Other signs of Indian habitation were present at the site but archeologists who surveyed the area could find no trace of burial grounds or other evidences of a permanent community. The food had been set aside for future use by a rather large band of redmen: What had happened to them that prevented their return?



Manzana—Fisherman's Creek

The deep canyon of Manzana Creek and its cool waters provide fishermen with a taste of real mountain fishing. Catchable trout are dumped into the stream near Nira Camp several times a year and the time of planting is usually announced ahead of the day in area newspapers. This brings fishermen in large numbers to Nira and Davey Brown Camps.

Often, the fishermen are waiting downstream when the planting of catchables is made. Only the least hungry of the fish make their way beyond these eager sportsmen. Those that do, have a chance to survive the year and spawn to add to the native fish far upstream.

The Manzana runs westward through deeply wooded canyons from its beginning between San Rafael and McKinley mountains. Many parts of the stream's canyon are narrow and deep. The pools are cool and clear at the Narrows, reached by walking upstream from Nira for about seven miles.

A good trail follows the creek and there is a primitive camp at the site. Also on the trail is FISH CREEK CAMP — named for the small stream that enters into the Manzana across from the campsite. This camp offers room for only one party.

Alders line much of the Manzana like sentinels, their tall thin trunks and light foliage adding beauty to the trail.

Not too far upstream from Nira, there is a fine specimen of valley oak. One of the largest in the county, it spreads its branches over hundreds of square feet of ground.

In addition to game fish, there are crayfish, frogs, toads and even turtles in the Manzana. Bears roam through this area, but are seldom seen. A careful check of the footprints in the sands at the edges of large pools will reveal the presence of many animals. Youngsters on nature treks into this part of the forest often carry plaster of paris with them to make casts of the animal prints.



Hikers start out from Nira Camp to walk up the Manzana trail. Beginning on a jeep road, the trail cuts over to the broad, wooded valley along the stream. It is one of the most pleasant walks in the forest.



Hikers on the trail above Manzana Canyon rest at a sandstone formation; many youngsters prefer to believe it is a dinosaur egg.



Clear water runs along a solid rock stream bed on the upper Sisquoc, the county's most beautiful and secluded river.

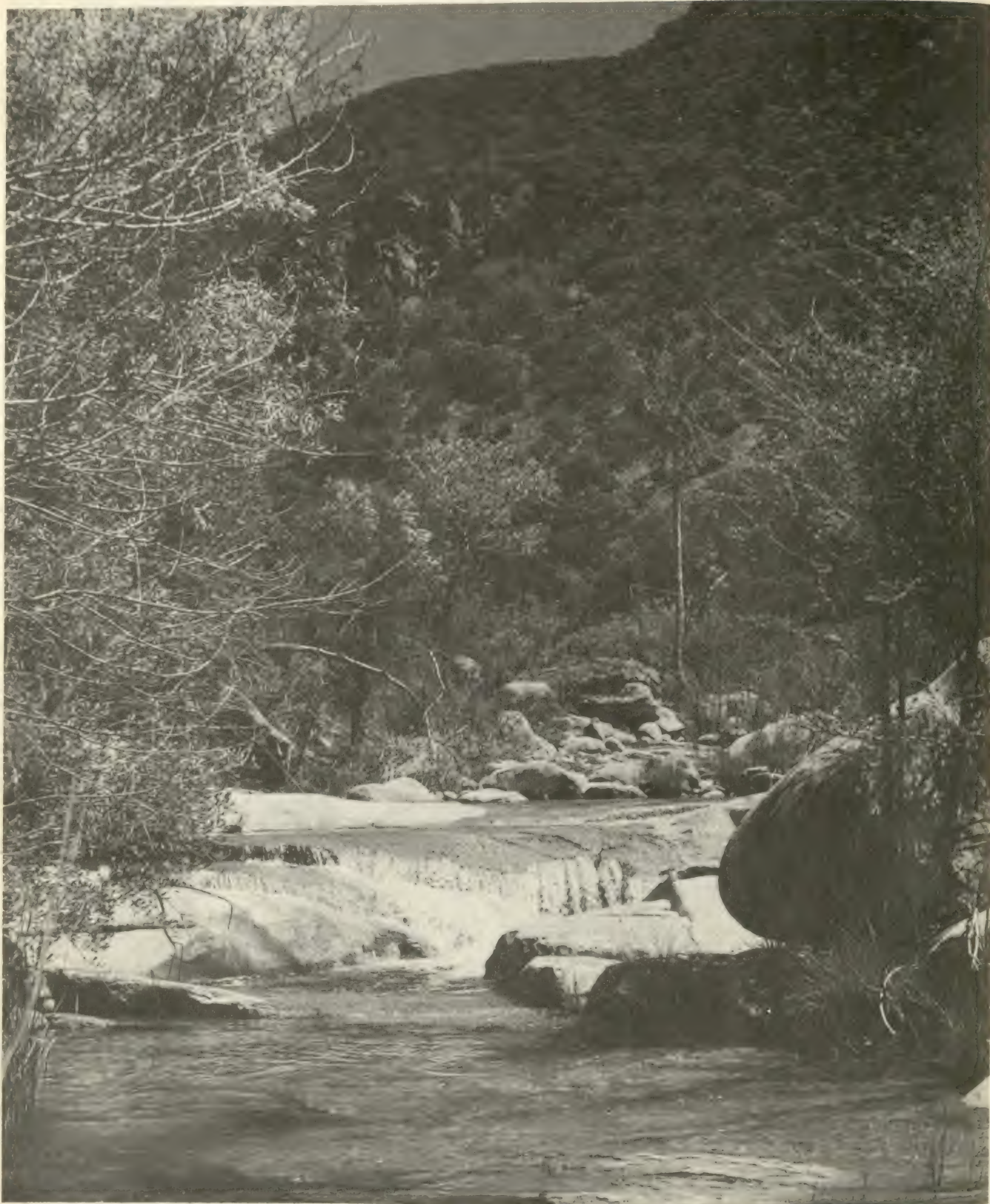
The Hidden Sisquoc

A wonderful trek from NIRA CAMP is the long walk to the upper Sisquoc. A trail leads downstream along the Manzana, and at the junction of the Manzana and the Sisquoc, turns east, upriver on the Sisquoc. Right where the trail turns is deserted Manzana Schoolhouse. Abandoned before the turn of the century, it once served the children of homesteaders all along the Sisquoc Valley.

A good horse trail leads up the Sisquoc, but requires a long day to arrive at the first camp. This

is a primitive site named ABEL CANYON CAMP. About two miles upstream is SYCAMORE CAMP, located where Big Bend Canyon comes down from the San Rafaels.

The Sisquoc River is one of the most beautiful streams in Santa Barbara County and each bend in the trail brings to view a new waterfall or pool. The river is wide in places, narrow in others; the canyon is filled with breathtaking variety. Those who have made the trek into this secluded wilderness never forget its wild beauty.



Rattlesnake Creek tumbles over ribbons of rock to join the Sisquoc as it runs to the sea.



A ranchyard in Santa Barbara Canyon, one of the many canyons that drop to the Cuyama Valley from the top of the Sierra Madres.

Top of the County, the Sierra Madres

Unlike the pine covered peaks of the San Rafael Range, the Sierra Madres rise from canyon and valley to form broad grass covered potreros at their tops. Majestic oaks with strong wide-spreading branches grow between wind-sculptured sandstone rocks. These rocks are timeworn reefs of sedimentary deposits thrust up millions of years ago when the range was formed.

Indians of the Cuyama Valley and the Sisquoc area have left indications of their presence in paintings and artifacts in the rocks. Many important artifacts—well preserved in the dry caves of the canyon walls—have given a good understanding of the cultural differences between the Chumash tribes and other Indians of California.



Rattlesnakes are plentiful in the Sierra Madres, and will most often be seen during hot weather.



Scoured by the winds, these rocks atop Salisbury Potrero make an inviting viewpoint for man or beast.

No public road opens to this wilderness atop the range, for here the entrances to the National Forest run through private ranch lands off the Cuyama Valley. For this reason, the Sierra Madres have kept much of their natural beauty.

There are several camps along the main ridge, maintained by the Forest Service. Particularly interesting is **PAINTED ROCK CAMP** at Montgomery Potrero. Located under a grove of giant oaks, this camp contains two fine cookstoves and is fenced to keep out cattle. It offers easy access to Painted Rock. Once the home of many Indians, the rocks now contain the nests of thousands of darting cliff swallows.

At the far eastern end of the county is Potrero Seco — dry potrero — leading off from State High-

way 399 at the summit of Pine Mountain. This is mostly private ranch land and only a small portion of the potrero is in the national forest. Continuing westward there is Santa Barbara Potrero, Salisbury Potrero, Round Potrero and Montgomery Potrero. Beyond these open meadows the mountains become more rugged and rise to 5,747 feet at McPherson Peak and to 5,837 feet at Peak Mountain. From here on there are areas covered with pines. Nearer to the point where the Cuyama River cuts through the range the mountains are heavily wooded and contain many trails and camp sites. These are reached from Tepusquet Canyon and La Brea Creek off the Sisquoc. **COLSON CANYON PUBLIC CAMP** is at the west end of the Santa Barbara District and can be reached by auto-



Lion Canyon, seen here from the top of the Sierra Madres, is one of many nearly impassable canyons running down to the Cuyama Valley at the northern border of Santa Barbara County. On the far side of the valley rise the mountains of San Luis Obispo County.

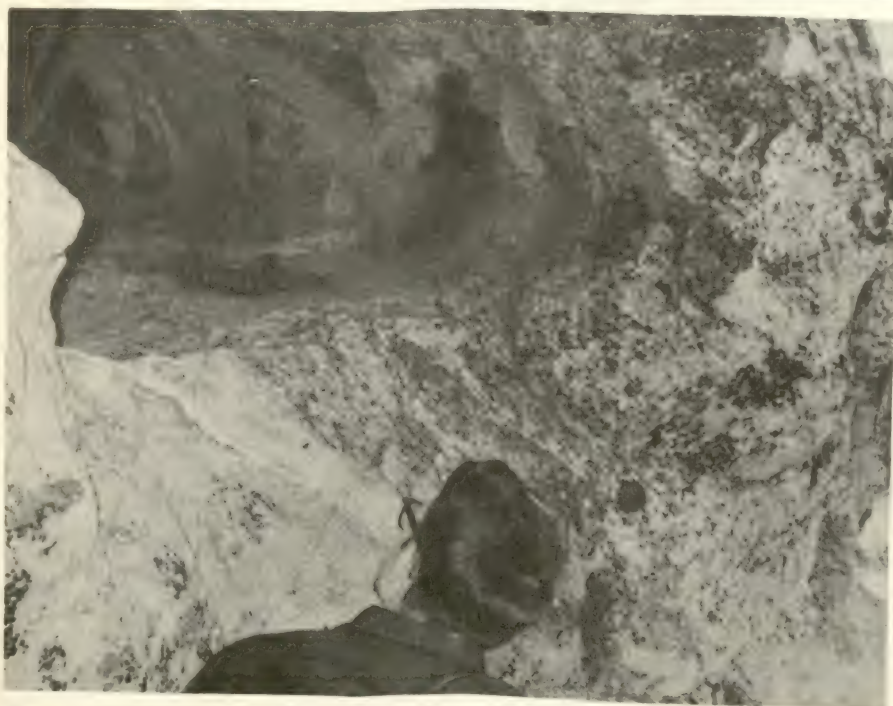
mobile from just west of Sisquoc on the Foxen Canyon Road. BARREL SPRINGS CAMP and LAZY CAMP are along La Brea Creek but are more easily reached by horseback from the Sisquoc. A trail through this area, across the peaks and on down to Cuyama Valley, ends at PINE CANYON GUARD STATION.

Sweet flowing springs are found all along the Sierra Madres. The potreros often contain marshy areas — headwaters of the creeks that flow down to the Sisquoc.

From Santa Barbara Potrero, there are trails that lead to the upper Sisquoc and its fishing camps. Best of these trails travels down Judell Canyon. Other trails lead down from both Salisbury and Montgomery Potreros to the Sisquoc River.

Planned for the future recreation needs of Southern California is a public road across this lovely mountain range. It will enter on the east through Santa Barbara Canyon and will probably continue on down to the Cuyama. Lovers of the wilderness hope this day will never come, for such a road would spell doom for the unspoiled beauty of these mountain hideaways.

Cattle are everywhere along the top of the Sierra Madres, for Cuyama Valley ranchers have held grazing rights to these mountain potreros since the creation of the national forest. Small islands of private land dot the potreros. Windmills and a few corrals and buildings add interest to the landscape and with the beauty of plants and fantastic rock formations, offer many subjects for camera fans.



The Forest Service camp at Painted Rock on Montgomery Potrero is in one of the most remote reaches of the Sierras Madres. The area is rich in Indian paintings.

Mountain Potreros Seldom Seen

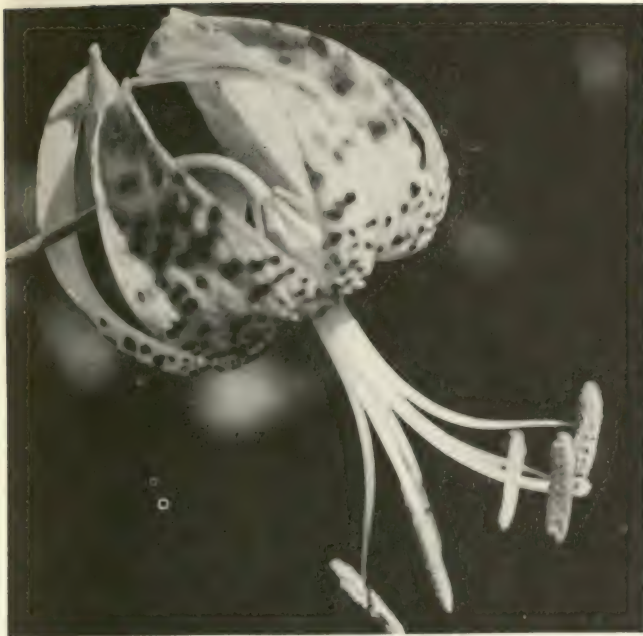
To find Indian paintings, every cave must be examined closely.



Junctions, such as this where the trail in the Sierra Madre Potrereros meets the trail to Big Pine, give the back country traveler his exact location.



In deep, narrow canyons, lush stands of fern tell of a plentiful water supply. Such locations are all too rare in the Santa Barbara back country.



Tall tiger lilies grow in cool moist canyons.



Tiny blossom of the stonewort is delicate in color. Below: The presence of a butterfly in a remote wilderness glade will make one think of a well cared for garden at home.



Nature's Bounty in Plants

The beauty of the Santa Barbara back country is to be found in its small as well as larger aspects. The grandeur of the mountain masses, rock formations and cliffs, brushy slopes and forest ridges is matched by the loveliness and color of the wildflowers, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. More people are beginning to notice such things and to recognize various species, thereby adding greatly to their appreciation and enjoyment of the world around them.

The regions of the chaparral — the elfin forest — have often been dismissed as dull and uninteresting brush. No notion could be more mistaken, for they are in reality places of wonderful color and variety.

Many species of sage grow in the chaparral. The commonest, Purple Sage, is a bushy plant growing three or four feet tall with long flowering stems. The lavender colored flowers and the soft green foliage cover large areas, especially on the coastal mountains. In contrast is the small Chia Sage with its dark purple blossoms flecked sparsely with bright blue. This plant is more abundant on dry inland slopes, and is noteworthy because the seeds were used for food by the Indians. In more shaded areas the beautifully named red Hummingbird Sage is found in abundance.

Two shrubs brighten the roadsides with bright yellow flowers. They are the Frémontia or flannel bush and the bush poppy. Frémontia, named for the famed explorer, has darker yellow flowers up to two inches across and its leaves are thick and hairy on the undersides. The bush poppy, lighter in hue, offers the added attraction of blooming throughout the year. It occurs throughout Southern California but is especially fine in the Santa Barbara country.

Dwellers in the Wilderness

A favorite flower of the warm dry regions is that plant of the literal name, woolly blue curls. From a rounded fuzzy center of light blue, the oddly shaped purple blue petals extend. Protruding from these is a cluster of slender, shiny, bright blue stamens which curl gracefully at their tips.

The bush monkey flower is another bright blossom of the trail and roadsides. It is a yellow flower with a long tube-like shape. Shades of pink and magenta are added to the display by phlox or gilia blossoms and the beloved chaparral pea.

Many other flowers brighten the open fields of the white oak-studded lower valleys and the savannah hillsides of the lower foothills. We find the famous California poppies and several varieties of lupine, the baby blue eyes and lovely little yellow pansy violet which children sometimes call Johnny jump-ups.

Canyon trails are bedecked with other types of blossoms. The long-stemmed blue *Brodiaea* is found here as well as in more open places. The bright crimson Indian paint brush and the dark-tipped pink shooting stars attract the eyes as do the blue tones of the lily-like blue eyed grass and the rich blue larkspur.

For some, the fun of walking among the flowers and shrubs of the back country is spoiled by fear of the presence of snakes and lizards. But increasingly, this fear is being replaced by a more healthy interest in these innocent creatures as people learn more about them. Aside from the dangerous, common, and easily identified rattlesnake, there are several beautifully marked reptiles in these mountains. The yellow and brown gopher snake is the largest; it is a clean and beneficial reptile.



No bigger than your thumb, this young tree frog stares accusingly at his captor.



The horned lizard is suspicious—and shows it. Below: a common king snake, friend of man.





A wise old mountain traveler enjoys the cool recess of a small cave near San Marcos Pass, while his young mistress studies the Indian pictographs.

Mystery Surrounds Work of Early Indian Painters



With pigments made of ground rocks, charcoal, and vegetable dyes, the Chumash Indian medicine man painted symbols on the walls and ceilings of caves in the mountains. Undoubtedly many of them have a religious significance. Some, we know from the signs, have to do with directions, passage of time, and hunting. But any real understanding of the significance of the complex designs executed by the ancient tribesmen is lost in time.

A binder of animal fat was used to mix the pigment to a painting consistency. Applied with a brush of hairs, feathers or frayed stick, the color struck into the rock. Reds are still the brightest and have remained after other colors have faded. A few examples still show traces of black, white, blue and green.



A drawing made from a faded pictograph in a mountain cave above Goleta, shows the intricate patterns of animal forms created by early Indians. Below: a photograph of a pictograph on a cave wall.





Hidden canyons in the San Rafaels often contain caves that were sought out centuries ago by the area's primitive residents. This outcropping contains several caves in which fine specimens of Indian art may be studied.

Tracing a Stone Age Culture

Indians ground meal from acorns in mortar holes cut into rocks. This rock contains dozens of grinding holes.





Author-illustrator Campbell Grant, who lives in the foothills behind Carpinteria, has spent several years searching out the cave paintings of the vanished tribes who once populated the Santa Barbara back country.

With camera and brush he has recorded the decorative symbols on a series of panels which will go on display at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. After study and analysis by anthropologists and ethnologists, it is hoped these copies of petroglyphs and pictographs will reveal some now unknown aspect of Indian life and culture.



Artfully fashioned beads of shell, bone and other materials are often found in burial sites by archaeologists.



Artifacts Tell Us How the Indians Lived

Santa Barbara Indians were masters in the art of carving huge stone bowls but knew nothing about pottery.



Wilderness Dwellers of the Past

Along Santa Barbara County's coastal strip, on the Channel Islands, and in the mountains to the north, traces of early Indians are common. Nearly every corner of the county, no matter how remote, contains sites of former Chumash villages.

Spanish explorers who sailed up the California coast gave mention to the peaceful, friendly Indians of the mainland and islands. They called them Canaliños, or Channel people.

The first permanent colonies of Spanish settlers from Mexico noted villages in many places along the coast from Carpinteria to Surf — and along the fertile valleys inland. The city of Santa Barbara now extends over two such villages, and the largest on the Pacific coast was on Mescalitán Island in the Goleta Slough, partly covered today by the municipal airport.

Zealous efforts of the Spaniards to turn these simple savages into Christians caused them to all but disappear in a few short years.

Men and women were separated when they were brought to live in compounds at the Old Mission and at the missions near Lompoc and Santa Ynez. There they were taught useful trades and were

forced to live by a regular routine — a challenge they had never had to face. Before too many years passed, great numbers of the Indians had died of smallpox and other diseases brought by the white man. Others ran away into the mountains.

Records at the Old Mission in Santa Barbara note only a handful of births to the mission Indians over a period of several years.

While the Spanish made few observations of the life and culture of the Indians, archaeologists have pieced together a fairly complete record of the manner in which these people lived.

From the kitchen refuse left at village sites along the sea coast, it is known that mollusks, fish and sea mammals were the staple diet. Huge, finely shaped stone bowls attest to the expert and ambitious craftsmanship of these people.

The City of Carpinteria got its name from the Indians who were seen by the Spanish while making planked canoes of exceptional craftsmanship.

Beads, charmstones and many other objects unearthed throughout the county testify to the Indians' interest in form and design. Their work shows far more sophistication than is seen in similar objects from neighboring tribes.

It is to be regretted that many of the most notable finds have been made by pothunters for private collections. Without full knowledge of where, how, and under what circumstances they were collected, the objects are worthless except as keepsakes.

In Santa Barbara's back country, Indians lived on the meat of wild animals supplemented by the edible fruit, nuts and berries of plants.

As you walk along a trail, it is not uncommon to find a fragment of a stone bowl, or an arrowhead of chert or obsidian. These are often washed out of the soil by rain.

Today it is hard to believe that the part of Santa Barbara County that is now wilderness once supported many Indian villages. Game of all kinds was plentiful — deer, mountain lion, bear, badger, raccoon and many other animals were all about. There is evidence that elk, mountain goats and even the woolly mammoth may have been part of the food supply of the ancient dwellers in these mountains.

Walk over the trails in the back country and you walk in the path of history. Early American settlers, the Spanish before them, and the Indian, all used these same trails. Walk a trail to its end and you'll surely find indications of these former residents.



Good Manners in the Forest

As the attractions of the back country come more to the attention of the public, it is inevitable that it will be subjected to increased use. This is likely to result in the destruction of the very things for which the area is admired. *Outdoor good manners become more and more important.*

Most public campgrounds in the Los Padres National Forest are already overcrowded. Garbage disposal is probably the main problem. Most of the camps are provided with garbage cans which should be used, with care being taken to replace lids firmly. In places where this service is not provided or where the disposal receptacles are full, a few common-sense rules should be followed.

There are three kinds of trash in any camp: Paper cartons, etc., which can be burned; food wastes which will rot and should be buried a good distance from the camp; and *such things as cans and bottles which will neither rot nor burn and should be carried home to be disposed of there.*

Toilet facilities in the camps should be used

with especial care. Children should be instructed in their proper use as soon as the camp is reached.

There is great danger from fires in the dry back country. *Fire permits are required of all campers.* No open fires are allowed anywhere in the forest. One disastrous brush fire could destroy the beauty of the country for many years to come, to say nothing of the incalculable damage it could do to the water resources of the entire county.

Plants and wildlife need protection, too. Cutting trees and wild flowers are actions that hurt everyone. The right to live of all the wild creatures should be respected. Laws protect animal life, but cooperation and understanding are needed to other living things. An always proper maxim of outdoor good manners is, "Don't kill anything you don't intend to eat."

A final word of special application to this area is that such things as Indian artifacts and historical relics are to be protected. *The Antiquities Act prohibits their removal or destruction.*



Relief Map of
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

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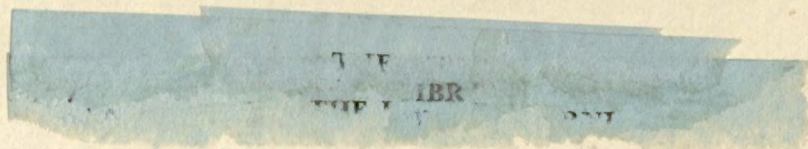
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RECOMMENDED READING

PACIFIC COAST BEACHWALKER'S GUIDE, by Dick Smith and Frank Van Schaick. A basic handbook for the identification of the plants, animals, and shells found along the shore and in the tide pools and shallow waters of the West Coast. Large format, 64 pp., illustrated with photos and drawings. paper, \$1.95

CALIFORNIA'S BACK COUNTRY: The Mountains and Trails of Santa Barbara County, by Dick Smith and Frank Van Schaick. An exploration of a wild and beautiful country, detailed for the first time by an experienced writer-photographer-naturalist-explorer team. Large format, 64 pp., illustrated with maps, photos, drawings. paper, \$1.95

CALIFORNIA'S SEA FRONTIER—Part I. The Channel Coast, by Mabel Rockwell. A scientist turned reporter offers a study of the men who make their living or find their pleasure on the sea off California's coast, in the waters of the Santa Barbara Channel. Large format, 64 pp., illustrated with maps, photos, drawings. paper, \$1.95

SANTA BARBARA YESTERDAYS, by Walker A. Tompkins. The "American Era" of Santa Barbara's history provides the materials for more than half a hundred stories, essays, and voyages into the past. Large format, 72 pp., illustrated. paper \$1.95

OLD SPANISH SANTA BARBARA, by Walker A. Tompkins. The romantic days of the Spanish dons brought vividly to life. A companion book to *Santa Barbara Yesterdays*. paper \$1.95

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